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Winter Fest begins this evening

District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa to inaugurate 10-day Mysuru Winter Festival and Flower Show at Palace

Mysuru, Dec. 23 (PM&BCT)- The Heritage City and the City of Palaces is bracing up for the first-ever Mysuru Winter Festival (MWF) that will unfold this evening with a host of attractions, compelling tourists to be and spend time in Mysuru.

The 10-day festival is being organised on the lines of Dasara with attractions including Flower Show on the Mysore Palace premises, Open Street Festival on D. Devaraj Urs Road, movie screening at Maharaja's College Grounds, heritage cycle rides, fireworks at Palace and a food mela at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry.

The festival that will conclude on Jan. 1 is being organised by the District Administration, Tourism Department and the Mysore Palace Board, Hotel Owners Association, Bakery Owners and Travel Associations.

The main attraction of the festival is the Palace Flower Show that will be inaugurated by District In-Charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa and a host of dignitaries at 5 pm today on the sprawling Mysore Palace premises.

When *Star of Mysore* visited the Palace this morning, hectic preparations were on for the grand event which is being held for the fourth time. The flower show will be open from 10 am to 9 pm. While the entry fee for the Flower Show has been fixed at Rs. 10 for adults, Rs. 5 has to be paid for the entry of children.

It will be a spectacular sight for visitors as they enter the Palace after 7 pm where the majestic structure will be illuminated till 9 pm along with the Shwetha Varahaswamy Temple premises where the Flower Show has been organised.

(See WINTER FEST on page 13)

Bishop's message for Christmas

Mysuru, Dec. 23 (US&MTY)- With just two days left for Christmas, Bishop of Mysuru Rev. Dr. K.A. William addressed a press meet at Bishop House in city this morning.

Rev. Dr. K.A. William

The Bishop said that Christmas symbolises the power of love, service and justice which all lead to peace across the globe. He observed that the consumerist society, with its idolatry of money and wealth, was badly in need of compassion and goodwill to counter hatred, terrorism and violence.

The Bishop recalled that during earlier days there was good harmony among people and contended that progress in education and technology had dwindled mutual respect. He advised parents to teach values to children. He further said that special prayers would begin at 11 pm tomorrow for Christmas at St. Philomena's and other Churches in city. He hoped that this Christmas would bring peace and prosperity for all, leading to a bright and bountiful New Year 2018.

Vicar General Fr. Rayappa, St. Joseph's Cathedral Parish Priest Fr. N.T. Joseph, Mysore Diocesan Education Society Secretary Fr. Vijay Kumar and Treasurer Fr. James Dominique were present.

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STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor-in-Chief: K.B. GANAPATHY B.A; B.L.
Mysuru, Saturday 23rd December 2017

Tracking talent

Universities in the marked set of countries outside India, particularly the countries of Europe and Americas, are in a virtual competition to admit students based on their credentials, both academic and extra-curricular. Equally so, companies abroad are in a race for getting hold of talented human resources for obvious reasons in the hope that the new recruits will blossom into the business backbone of the respective employers. Even as the companies are busy hiring and firing, after a look in of their choices, the young colts also play the job-hopping game, looking for greener pastures before settling down in life for a while. With the makeover from the status of bachelor to that of married employee, both outlook to life and disdain in negotiating terms with the employer change to caution and slow pace as a job-hopper. The current world of *job-givers* and *job-seekers* bears no similarity to what it was like decades ago.

Authorities, both in government and private managements of educational institutions in the range of undergraduate to postgraduate degrees, are preoccupied with matters that don't include strategies needed for ensuring as near 100 per cent relevance of the trained stock to the problems of society.

The *postulate* that parents in urban spaces consider the education expenses on their wards as investment for their future and also premium for insuring a livelihood as well as to be care-takers of aged parents has not changed in our times compared to the past, except marginally. However, the number of the family's *birds* flying away after gaining wings in the land is rising at an unprecedented pace. Further, the *equation* between opportunities for landing jobs and the mass of people seeking their place in the slot has witnessed a sea-change over years, in the sense that the ratio between the two is against the latter. The journey from acquiring academic credentials to the point of getting the first employment happens on a road that is rough and rocky for most aspirants. Who have no option except to bear with tense moments.

Lastly, a section of the urban-based job-seekers may be ready to scale down their job level, meaning the pay cheque, but given the ongoing exodus of rural youth into cities, the job scenario in the land is nowhere near pleasing. The companies are in no frame of mind to compromise on their ways of tracking talent.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Even though most Indians worship cows, a majority of the population is oblivious to the torture these animals are subjected to for milk. All animals produce milk for their offspring, just like humans. However, the dairy industry steals milk from the mothers, denying their young of this nutrition, to sell it in beautifully packaged plastic bags. The mere act of buying dairy products in the form of milk, buttermilk, ghee, paneer, ice-creams, cheese etc., ends up funding practices and abuse we otherwise admonish. The dairy industry is tricking the consumers into funding animal abuse. — *Swati Poddar in Deccan Herald.*

NEWS SPARKLERS

"Naked Restaurant"

Paris: At the recently inaugurated O'naturel restaurant in Paris, France, diners leave more than their coats at the door. The country's first "naked restaurant" allows naturists to enjoy classic French fare completely nude, in a comfortable and relaxed ambiance. O'naturel is not the first nudist restaurant in Europe. In the summer of 2016, a pop-up nudist restaurant opened in London, followed by another in Tenerife. Their success inspired twin entrepreneurs Mike and Stephane Saada to try the same concept in Paris.

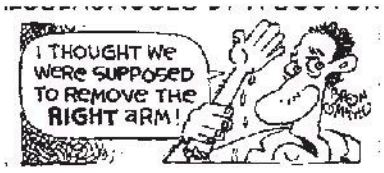
O'naturel features minimalist decor and a menu of classic French bistro cuisine, such as lobster, foie gras and snails with parsley cream sauce, there are vegan options as well. Diners leave their clothing and mobile devices (to prevent photographing) in a cloakroom upon arrival, and they are given a pair of slippers to wear. Finally, a server seats them in the small restaurant. The chairs feature black cloth covers that are discreetly changed between seatings, and a white curtain to protect diners from gawkers and curious passersby.

Spotted UFO !

Varginia: Commander David Fravor and Lieutenant Commander Jim Slaight said that what they spotted 'accelerated like nothing' they had ever seen before. They were around 100 miles off the coast of San Diego in separate F/A-18F Super Hornets when they spotted the object in 2004. Some of what they saw has now been released by the Pentagon. They tracked it for a couple of weeks before going up to have a look at it. Fravor said the objects appeared at 80,000ft then sped towards the sea, stopping at 20,000ft where they would then hover before disappearing off the radar or shooting into the sky. They described seeing a whitish 40ft long, oval-shaped object hovering around 50ft long, according to the New York Times. Fravor said: 'We were at least 40 miles away, and in less than a minute this thing was already at our cap point.' But it had vanished by the time they arrived so they left the area. He concluded: 'I have no idea what I saw. It had no plumes, wings or rotors and outran our F-18s. I want to fly one.

HEALTH CAPSULE
by Bron Smith

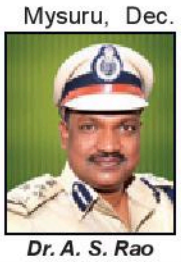
How many people are harmed from being misdiagnosed by a doctor?



Autopsy and medical record reviews have revealed that 10% of patient deaths are attributable to diagnostic errors. Think about that next time you check into a hospital. Misdiagnosis is the No. 1 cause of medical malpractice lawsuits.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

Naada Ninaada: Annual Day of BVB School tomorrow


Dr. A. S. Rao

Mysuru, Dec. 23- Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB) School, Vijayanagar, will be celebrating the 15th Annual Day with the theme *Naada Ninaada* at Open Air Theatre in Manasagangothri on Dec. 24 at 5.30 pm.

Police Commissioner Dr. A. Subrahmanyeswara Rao will be the chief guest. Deputy Director of Public Instruction Manjula, BVB Bengaluru Chairman N. Ramanuja and BVB Mysuru Vice-Chairman K.B. Ganapathy will be the guests of honours.

BVB Mysuru Chairman Prof. A.V. Narasimha Murthy will preside. BVB Hon. Secretary P.S. Ganapathy, Hon. Treasurer Dr. A.T. Bhashyam and School Principal Vijaya Narasimham will be present on the occasion.

Release of felicitation volume 'Vignana Pathika' on Dec. 24

Mysuru, Dec. 23 - Spandana Samskruthika Parishat, Mysuru, Sir M.V. Vignana Kendra, Nanjangud and Sathanur Devaraju Abhinandana Samithi has organised a function to release Science writer Sathanur Devaraju's felicitation volume titled *'Vignana Pathika'* on the occasion of his 60th birthday celebrations on Dec. 24 at Sri Rajendra Bhavan here at 10.30 am.

The function will be inaugurated by Legislative Council Deputy Chairman Marithibbegowda. Litterateur Dr. C.P. Krishnakumar will preside. The felicitation volume edited by Satyanarayana Nanjangud and T. Satish Javaregowda will be released by columnist Dr. Doddarangegowda. Senior Indian Information Service Officer Dr. T.C. Poornima will speak on the book.

Devaraju, who recently retired as Principal, will be felicitated by Mandya District Congress Committee President M.S. Athmananda. Folklore Expert Dr. D.K. Rajendra will deliver the felicitation address. Sir M.V. Vignana Kendra President Satyanarayana Nanjangud and Spandana Samskruthika Parishat President T. Satish Javaregowda will be the chief guests.

Really...?

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Girl: *Awww! ok!! Do you love me??* ***Boy:*** *No...*

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VOICE OF THE READER

Avoid inconvenience to ATM customers

Sir,

The main motto behind establishing ATM units by Banks is to avoid mad rush, elaborate process and to save time of customers as well as Bank staff. After establishing ATM units, most of the customers heaved a sigh of relief.

But gradually this concept proved to be futile in the minds of customers. To cite an example, the ATM facility established by SBI in Dattagalli (next to old Kadamba Bakery) is no doubt open 24X7. But the customer, who visits there to withdraw amount, returns haplessly by seeing the hand-written slip "No Cash" — which is pasted on the glass of entrance door. And the security personnel seldom appears.

According to the opinion of locals, this ATM is hardly useful for an average of 7 to 8 days in a month. Rest of the days, it runs without cash. Obviously, customers like me and others are facing a lot of inconvenience.

Therefore, it is requested that the authorities concerned will give immediate attention to this problem and see that cash is filled up in the machine at least once in two days.

— Aravind G. Joshi,
Inconvenienced senior citizen
Rajarajeshwari Nagar
21.12.2017

AGM of Bhagavathi Kodava Assn.

Mysuru, Dec. 23- The Annual General Body Meeting of Sree Bhagavathi Kodava Association, Bogadi, will be held at Kodagu Sahakara Sangha in Jayalakshmipuram on Sunday (Dec. 24) at 10 am. Ballachanda Subbaiah, Association President, will preside.

MGP to celebrate National Consumer Day tomorrow

Mysuru, Dec. 23- As part of National Consumer Day, the Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) has organised a demonstration of food adulteration detection, test for water potability, detection of adulterants in milk etc., and interaction with public on consumer rights at the Dufferin Clock Tower (Chikka Gadiyaara) between 9 am and 4 pm tomorrow (Dec. 24). Several government departments will also participate in the programme to be inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep at 10 am. Those who wish to volunteer their services may be present at the venue by 8.30 am.

Anubandha: Annual Conference of Inner Wheel District - 318 this evening

Mysuru, Dec. 23- Anubandha, the 48th Annual Conference of Inner Wheel District-318 will be inaugurated this evening at 6 pm at Basanth Convention Centre in J.P. Nagar here.

Dr. Kapila Gupta, International Inner Wheel President, will be the chief guest at the Conference hosted by six Inner Wheel Clubs of Mysuru City.

Patricia Hilton, Association President of Inner Wheel and Rtn. G. N. Prakash, Governor, Rotary District - 3182, will be the guests of honour. District - 318 Chairman Jayashree M. Urs will be present at the Conference which concludes tomorrow (Dec.24).

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NEWS BRIEFS

'Millet walk' tomorrow

As past of Mysuru Division Organic and Millet Fair, a 'Millet Walk' will be taken out tomorrow at 8 am from Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple to DC's office here which will be launched by DC D. Randeep.

Discourse

Sri Krishna Mithra Mandali and Sri Krishna Trust will be organising a five-day discourse from Dec. 24 to Dec. 28 on 'Harivamsha' by Dr. Vyasanakere Prabhanjanacharya at Sri Krishna Sabha Bhavan on Sahukar Chennaiah Road in Saraswathipuram from 6.30 pm.

Results announced

The results of B.A, B.Com, BBM, BCA and BBA examinations conducted by JSS College for Women during November-December 2017 has been announced in the college website www.jsscw.in/studentinfo/ result, according to a press release from College Principal Dr. K.V. Suresha. The results have also been displayed on college notice board.

Annual Day at Jnanodaya

The Annual Day celebrations of Jnanodaya PU College, Saraswathipuram, will be held today (Dec. 23) from 6.30 pm at the college premises in Saraswathipuram. Retired Additional Secretary to Government of India, Department of Telecommunication C.V. Gopinath will be the chief guest. Administrator and CEO of Sri Sharada Peetam, Sringeri, Dr. V.R. Gowrishankar will preside.

Obituary

Mangalamma

Mysuru, Dec.23- Mangalamma (80), wife of late Sri Mahanta Devaru of Suttur Mutt, passed away yesterday at her residence.

She leaves behind five sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Suttur this noon, according to family sources.

Sherfunnisa

Sherfunnisa (71), wife of late Abdul Wajid and a retired lecturer from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Mysuru, passed away last night following prolonged illness.

She leaves behind son Prof. Khalid Imran, daughter Kaneez Fathima and a host of relatives and friends. Burial took place at the Muslim Burial Ground here.

Sex scandal: Actors accused of taking sexual favours

Victim complains to city Police; case now with Women's Police Station; actors deny allegations

Mysuru, Dec.23 (SBD&BCT)- A girl from Mysuru who took shelter under an NGO has accused two Kannada stars Sadhu Kokila and Mandya Ramesh of misusing her for sexual favours. The victim was rescued from 'Like Trend Family Saloon' in Bogadi, owned by Rajesh couple.

Rajesh

Mandya Ramesh

Sadhu Kokila

The Saraswathipuram Police had raided the spa recently and had busted a prostitution racket. Rajesh has been arrested now and has been remanded to Judicial custody.

Speaking to media persons yesterday, the victim claimed that she has complained to the City Police and also the Karnataka State Women's Commission, seeking suitable action against the actors and the owner of the parlour.

She said, "Mandya Ramesh and Sadhu Kokila had visited the parlour twice and had obtained my service forcefully. Three Police Officers from Bengaluru, who visited the parlour, also harassed me sexually. Rajesh also sexually abused me in the absence of his wife," she stated in her complaint.

The Police had raided the saloon on the city outskirts and arrested the owners of the spa, Rajesh and his wife Bharathi alias Indira, who is popular as 'Jinke Mari,' for running a brothel. The victim has stated that Mandya Ramesh has a close association with Rajesh and Indira. Even the saloon was inaugurated by the actor.

"He visits the saloon on a regular basis for body massages and Rajesh had asked me to sleep with the two actors. I was harassed sexually during the massage sessions too where the actors used to tell me to massage their private parts," she stated. She has also accused them of having offered her money for sexual favours.

CASE WITH WOMEN'S POLICE STATION

Saraswathipuram Police have handed over the case to Women's Police Station Inspector for further investigation. As the Women's Police Station Inspector is ex-Officio Nodal Officer to handle cases pertaining to trafficking and prostitution cases involving women, the case has been handed over to Inspector Jayarathna.

Though the Police did not find any incriminating evidence that proved Rajesh had converted the spa into a brothel, he was booked following charges by the victim. Rajesh has been charged under a provision of The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act for allegedly detaining a person where prostitution is carried out, and procuring a person for the sake of prostitution.

ACTORS REFUTE ALLEGATIONS

Both Mandya Ramesh and Sadhu Kokila have denied the allegations. "It is a personal attack and an attempt to tarnish my image. The allegation is baseless. I will take a legal action against the woman," Ramesh said.

Ramesh said he had visited the saloon for hairdressing and that he did not witness any illegal activity. Sadhu Kokila said, "Is it possible for celebrities to visit a place alone. We don't have the freedom to visit such places. The allegation is baseless."

"Yes, I have inaugurated the saloon and had visited once. I don't know this girl at all. I have not seen her too, so I do not know why she is making false allegations against me. I have always respected women and these kinds of allegations have hurt me badly. I feel sorry about the girl's situation. I didn't know that prostitution was being run in that saloon. Police should take proper action against whoever is responsible for this and the victim must get justice," he added.

"I have been raped and violated repeatedly"

"I have been raped by Rajesh repeatedly and actors Mandya Ramesh and Sadhu Kokila have sexually harassed me in the name of getting their bodies massaged. I have seen these actors on screen and I was shocked when they asked me to massage their private parts," said the victim who was rescued from the spa.

She hails from Pandavapura taluk in Mandya district and has been separated from her husband. "My father died and my mother deserted me. I was married to a man in Bengaluru and he was a drunkard. He too left me within a year of marriage and I was forced to come back to my village to stay at my grandmother's place," she stated.

Narrating her ordeal, the girl said that her grandmother died too and she started working at a bangle shop for a living. Some of her relatives told her that they would get her a job in Mysuru as a domestic help.

The girl then came in contact with Bharathi alias Indira who is known as 'Jinke Mari' and the latter had told her that she would look good in a T-shirt and a jeans pant.

"She promised that she would get me a job in a beauty parlour and asked me to come to 'Like Trend Family Saloon' in Bogadi. Only after I came here, I realised that it was a massage parlour. I was trained for the massage and was asked by owner Rajesh to massage his clients to their expectations," she narrated.

"Rajesh ordered me to massage naked bodies and I was forced to touch their private parts. When I resisted, the clients used to complain to Rajesh who used to threaten me. I kept quiet for a long time as I needed the job for survival," she narrated.

"I was not given any money, but was forced to work there and I had to offer body massage on Saturdays and Sundays and later I was also forced into sexual activities. Rajesh had even kept me under house arrest and was raped many times. Along with Mandya Ramesh and Sadhu Kokila, many Police Officers used to come from Bengaluru for body massages and used to sexually harass me," she stated.

'Operation Cheetah'

144 cases booked, Rs. 28,100 fine collected from traffic offenders

Mysuru, Dec.23 (YDS&KS)- Devaraja Traffic Police, who conducted 'Operation Cheetah,' a drive against traffic rules offenders here yesterday, have booked 144 cases against the offenders and have collected a total of Rs.28,100 fine from them.

During the operation which was conducted near the Brahmapuri Gate of the Mysore Palace between 3 pm and 6 pm, the Cops booked cases besides collecting fines from the traffic rules offenders.

Similar operations were conducted by the Traffic Police of various Traffic Police Stations at prominent spots in city.

Woman's body found in Kukkarahalli Lake

Mysuru, Dec.23 (SPN&KS)- Jayalakshmipuram Police have found a body of an unidentified woman in Kukkarahalli Lake here yesterday.

The unidentified woman, who is said to be about 35 years of age, is 5.3 ft. tall, wheatish complexioned, normal built, has a scar on the left elbow and was wearing a pink and white coloured chudidhar top and a white pant.

The Police, who have shifted the body to MMC&RI mortuary, have asked the kith and kin of the deceased to contact Jayalakshmipuram Police Station or Police Control Room on Ph: 0821-2418339.

Laptop stolen from locked house

Mysuru, Dec.23 (SPN&KS)- Miscreants, who broke into a locked house in Jayalakshmipuram on Dec.19, have managed to steal a laptop from the house.

The theft took place in the house of one Samuel, a resident on 14th Main Road in Jayalakshmipuram here.

Samuel had locked his house and had gone outside when miscreants broke into the house and stole the laptop.

A case has been registered at Jayalakshmipuram Police Station in this regard.

Weekend treat at Rangayana

Venisamhara, Shikari and Project Adithi to be staged from Dec.23 to 25

Mysuru, Dec. 23 - While the District Administration is offering a variety of entertainment programmes during the 10-day *Mysuru Winter Festival* starting from today (Dec. 23), the city-based theatre repertory Rangayana will be staging three different plays this weekend and on Christmas day to make the long weekend holiday more special. The plays will be staged at Bhoomigeeta between Dec. 23 and Dec.25 at 6.30 pm daily.

Today, the students of Bharatiya Rangashikshana Kendra, Rangayana will be staging the play *'Venisamhara,'* authored by Bhattanarayana and directed by Saliyana Umesh Narayana. H.K. Dwarkanath has provided the stage design while Mahesh Kallathi has designed the lights. Ganesh and M. Subrahmanya Mysuru have scored the music.

On Dec. 24, Senior Rangayana artistes will stage *'Shikari'* directed by actor Prakash Belawadi. H.K. Dwarkanath has designed the sets while K.J. Pavan has composed music. Sankeerthi Ipanjiguli has designed costumes and lights by Mahesh Kallathi.

On Monday, the last of the three-day event will feature Rangayana Touring Artistes staging the play *'Project Adithi.'*

The play, originally written in Marathi by Vibhavari Deshpande, has been translated to Kannada by Senior Rangayana artiste Santosh Kumar Kusanooru. The play has been directed by Pramod Kaale and Vedantha Ranade. The set has been designed by H.K. Dwarkanath, costume by B.N. Shashikala. Srinivasa Bhat (Cheeni) has composed the music for this play.

First DRM Lab to open in city tomorrow

All diagnostic tests at nominal price

Mysuru, Dec.23 (US)- "DRM Labs have been established to provide all diagnostic tests at 65% lesser than market rate to help the poor," said 'I Serve Nation' President and BJP City President Dr. B.H. Manjunath.

Disclosing this at a press meet at a hotel in city yesterday, he said that it was proposed to open seven DRM Labs in city and added that the first Lab would be launched tomorrow at 10.30am at the premises of HMHMC Ayurveda Hospital in Gokulam 2nd stage here. He further said that the other six Labs would be opened in phases during the coming days.

Dr. Manjunath said that DRM Labs would provide all facilities like Bio-chemistry, Haematology, Hormone assay, urine analysis and other diagnostic tests at a very affordable price. He added that the Lab would be open on all the 365 days of the year.

Traffic Adalat this evening

Mysuru, Dec.23 - The Police Commissionerate has set up a Traffic Advisory Committee and it holds 'Traffic Adalat' every month.

As part of this initiative, Traffic Adalat will be held today (Dec.23) at 4.30 pm at the Institution of Engineers on JLB Road, said City Police Commissioner Dr. A. S. Rao in a press release.

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IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

2G Flop Show

Raja's 1996 election promise was *"Oru kilo arisi oru ruba, oru hello 50 paisa"* (1 kilo rice 1 rupee, one hello on the phone 50 paisa). Ironic that he was put in jail for a phone-related scam. Many thought he was done for, but Andimuthu Raja, who was first summoned for questioning by the CBI on Christmas eve of 2010, was acquitted few days before Christmas eve 2017.

With the acquittal of all 2G accused, our investigating agency has once again proved that they are a procrastinating agency. What else can one say when Raja's house is raided a year after the case is registered! What did CBI expect to find in the raids after giving the accused 12-month prior warning?

Raja was never worried about the outcome of 2G case. In an interview to journalist Sunetra Choudhury about his interrogation by the CBI, Raja had said, *"I would go there (CBI office) in the morning. Then they had a total of one or two files. They would keep going over that and nobody really understood what the 2G scam or the Telecom policy was all about. All we did was eat biriyani and drink tea while the CBI guys tried to understand what the 2G case was all about. They hadn't read the documents that were all there — the TRAI recommendations, the National Telecom Policy, nothing, and they didn't understand it, so they were all dithering. They just knew that something had to be done."* No wonder the case collapsed.

Now the important part of the judgement is what the special CBI Court had to say about the bureaucrats. The Judge says that the bureaucrats in the Telecom Department purposely deployed bad handwriting, opaque language, cryptic notes, unnecessarily lengthy notes, used highly technical and layered language, so it cannot easily be understood by others but can conveniently be used for finding fault with the superior authorities for agreeing or disagreeing with it. The Court finally states, "Thus, the genesis of the case lies not so much in the actions of A. Raja but in the action/inaction of others referred above."

But it's disappointing that the judgement does not recommend any action against the bureaucrats! Indian bureaucracy is considered the worst in Asia. According to a 2012 report, our bureaucracy is worse than those in nations like Vietnam and Philippines. This is not surprising because today most Indians who join the civil services don't do so with a sense of service but with hopes of economic windfall. And the lack of prosecution has only emboldened them.

It is really hard to prosecute a bureaucrat in our country. After a case is registered against a Civil Servant, permission is needed from the accused Officer's Departmental Head to file the charge sheet. Then it goes to the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) for sanction. Then the case goes to the Chief Vigilance Officer in the Department. Then it is sent to the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC). Then to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Now, if the DoPT disagrees with the CVC, the file moves up to the Prime Minister, and sometimes even to the President!

As it is often said, yes the Indian Civil Services may have been the "steel frame" that held India together after Independence, but today it's a rusted barbed wire that is hurting India's development. It's time for an overhaul.

Ayyoo Swamy...What next?

Former Union Minister Dr. Subramanian Swamy, now an MP in the BJP government, must be a very disappointed man. After all, it was he who filed a criminal complaint against Raja in December 2010. The Supreme Court then asked the CBI to investigate and began monitoring the case. It is this complaint that led to Raja's arrest. But Raja is acquitted now.

This acquittal must be frustrating for Dr. Swamy as no matter which case he takes up, it does not meet its logical end. Most of it remains mere allegations or unsolved — From Sonia Gandhi's passport to Rahul Gandhi's degree certificate; From National Herald to 2G Scam, nothing gets proven in Court.

Now, may be instead of CBI, the BJP government must put Dr. Swamy in charge of the 2G case, he may be able to prove it. After all, Dr. Swamy wrote a book on 2G scam titled simply *"2G Spectrum Scam."* Also, he will do a better job than CBI who are out of their depth in matters of economics and since BJP nominated Dr. Swamy for his excellence in Economics and Academics he is perfectly qualified to handle the case.

But will the BJP allow that? After all, PM Modi has been "buddying" up to DMK's Karunanidhi, whose daughter Kanimozhi too was acquitted in the 2G scam. Will BJP pursue the 2G case by appealing in the High Court sincerely or will it use the case to force DMK to be a reluctant ally in BJP's foray into Tamil Nadu politics? Well, as they say, all is fair in love and war, and in India, politics is war.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Weekend STAR Supplement

Winter's Tale

A sad tale is best for winter, says William Shakespeare in *'The Winter's Tale.'* This *Weekend Star Supplement,* however, is about winter and its happy times. It is about winter and its attached strings of festivities where people love to snooze under the blanket in chilly morns or relish hot chilli *bajjis* with coffee or tea in cold evenings. At the same time, it is also an occasion for warmth by celebrating Christmas and New Year with cakes, barbecues and bonfire.

[Pic. by M.N. Lakshminarayana Yadav]

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If Spring and Autumn come...

Can Winter be far behind?

By V. Shourabh

As cold breeze is sweeping past Mysuru, a new season is at the helm. It is winter, the coldest season of the year where people would snuggle in warm clothes to keep their bodies at bay from chill. Winter and festivity come in a combo package. While the spine-chilling cold gives us reasons to sleep and have steamy showers, the festivity provides us warmth and gives us reasons to stay awake and make merry.

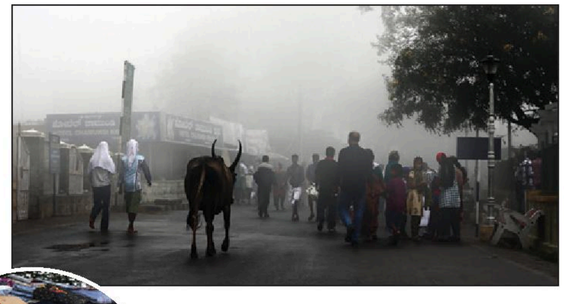
Getting up from the bed itself a constant battle every winter mornings - the struggle is real when one tries to curl up his toes as well as his head under the thick blanket and in his attempt to cover one of them, the other end tends to slip off from the blanket. There are several elements that connect winter and our practices and lifestyle. As the season turns chilly and cold, Mysuru shifts gear to this cold festive season that provides warmth everywhere.

Dhanurmasa (Month of Dhanur)

If you happen to wake up early, you can notice people walking into temples while they completely cover themselves with monkey-caps, shawls and sweaters as it is the season of Dhanurmasa.

This season is considered inauspicious for good things and people worship Lord Vishnu in the early hours of the day as it is considered auspicious. It is called the Dhanurmasa as during this period of the year, the sun transits through Sagittarius (Dhanur Rasi).

This ritual of worship before dawn can be seen in various temples of Mysuru. People recite Vishnu Sahasranama during this period. Having a darshan of Adiranga (Srirangapatna), Madhyaranga (T. Narasipur) and Anthyaranga (Srirangam in Tamil Nadu) on the same day (dawn to dusk) in Dhanurmasa is considered auspicious. People, fully draped in warm clothes, but for their half-asleep eyes, visit holy shrines in the mornings. While they return from the puja, temples provide them Pongal as a prasadam that is flavoured with pepper, giving a relief to throats and provide the much-needed warmth to the freezing body.



Winter clothes

Who doesn't love wearing warm clothes during winter? Pullovers, mufflers, hand gloves, shawls, sweaters, jackets, caps, etc. are up for sale all over the city. The Devaraja Urs Road is dotted with shops with mannequins fully covered with sweaters and jackets to draw potential customers. People generally love to keep themselves warm and winter clothes have definitely emerged as a fashion statement.

The streets around Silver Jubilee Clock Tower near the Town Hall host sellers hailing from Tibet selling warm clothes to combat winter chill. One of the sellers, Phunpsok, says that their business touches its peak during this phase as they mostly sell winter clothes made out of wool and this is the season that gives them a good profit in their business.

He also added that they bring in the large stock of warm clothes in April. The clothes are brought from Ludhiana where they are manufactured and designed. The speciality of these sellers is that they sell winter wear at affordable prices for all age groups.

Spice up your APPETITE

Mysuru is known for its love towards food and the heat turns up during cold season as the diet goes crashing where appetite and desires emerge victorious. No wonder it is a festive time for taste buds too.

Signboards at some gyms and fitness shops read "summer bodies are made in winter". But taste buds don't care as bodies with bulging waistlines can wait till January 1 when people make a resolution to get fit once again.

The fries, patties, bajjis, pakodas and bondas are some common snacks that are preferred during winter season. A plate of chilli bajji by your side and a hot cup of coffee or tea that warms your freezing hands is simply the best thing during this phase. And when the hot tea fires up your tongue and the spicy bajji hits a 'burning' top notch in your stomach - that is when you feel you have reached heaven.

Several streets in Mysuru sell bajji and bondas, even from make-shift places on roadsides and people are always seen swelling such places - just about time for the right snacks at the right phase of the season.

Sales of hot and spicy soups and steamed momos have suddenly picked up in Mysuru as they are slowly emerging to be popular snacks. Keep your stomach happy and make the most of this winter.

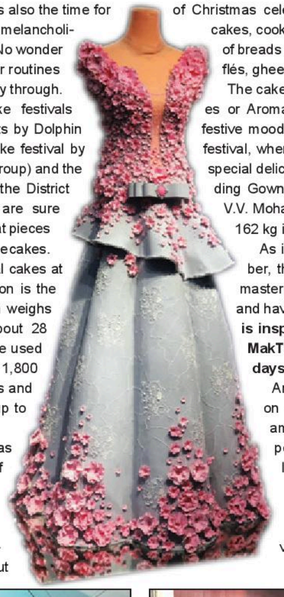
Cakes and Cake Festivals

It is the festive phase of the year where Christmas and New Year are round the corner. It is also the time for holidays for those who were stuck in the melancholically humdrum mechanical form of life. No wonder it is the perfect time to escape from your routines and breathe the festive mood all the way through.

Mysuru has organised several cake festivals throughout December. The cake exhibits by Dolphin Bakery at Gruha Shobhe exhibition, cake festival by Aroma (the baking arm of Loyal World Group) and the cake festival that will be organised by the District Administration during Winter Festival are sure crowd-pullers. People will get to see great pieces of art and the effort involved in making these cakes.

Dolphin has prepared several special cakes at Gruha Shobhe. But their major attraction is the cake model of Indian Parliament which weighs about 7,449 kgs. The bakers took about 28 days to make this cake. Here, they have used 5,100 eggs, 3,800 kgs of icing sugar, 1,800 lime, and gelatine of about 39 kgs and other ingredients that adds up to 1,010 kgs.

This huge cake was prepared by a team of 8 members and the initial work and set-up was done at their factory at Hootagalli and they took about six days to finish the complete touch up work. As part of Christmas celebrations, they also sell special plum cakes, cookies, pastries, muffins, deserts, varieties of breads and rolls, home-made chocolates, soufflés, ghee cakes, donuts, puddings etc.

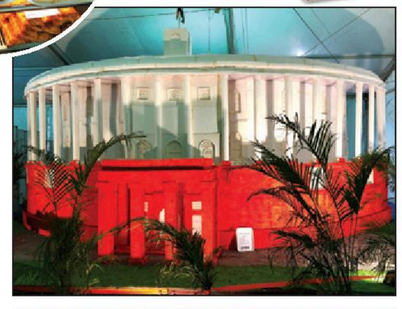


The cake festival at various Loyal World branches or Aroma outlets will also add flavour to this festive mood. They have organised a 15-day Cake festival, where each day caters to a combination of special delicacies. The major attraction is the 'Wedding Gown' cake that has been displayed at the V.V. Mohalla branch of Loyal World. The cake is 162 kg in weight, 7 feet high and 3 feet wide.

As is the tradition at Aroma every December, they challenge themselves in making a masterpiece cake that the Mysureans can go and have a look. **This year's 'Wedding Gown' is inspired by the award-winning designer MakTumang's work. It took the bakers 10 days to complete the masterpiece.**

Aroma will be serving special delicacies on each day of the fest that begins at 10 am at all the venues — Loyal World Supermarket (V.V. Mohalla, Bannimantap, Infosys, T.K. Layout, Kuvempunagar), Loyal World Market (Mall of Mysore), Aroma Lounge (Bogadi Road, Hebbal Industrial Area) and at Gayathri Bhavan building, Dhanvanthri Road.

[Continued on page 10]



Winter to Linger Longer

Winter has finally set in, at least six weeks later than normal. And now that it is here, it is expected to stay for a while. Scientists say when winters set in late, they usually linger for longer. They also say that February this year is likely to be colder than it usually is.

In a normal season, Mysuru starts experiencing cold weather after November 15. This year, the winter has taken almost the end of December to set in. Cloudy weather is expected to continue till Dec. 27 in Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar districts. However, no rainfall is predicted, authorities in the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) stated.

According to the Organic Farming Research Station (OFRS), Naganahalli near Mysuru, there will be no rain in Mysuru region up to Dec. 27 but cloudy sky will continue. The day temperature is expected to be between 27 degrees Celsius (°C) and 30°C during the day and night temperature is expected to be 14 degrees Celsius to 15 degree Celsius.

Relative humidity in the morning hours is expected to be 74 to 76% and afternoon relative humidity is expected to be in the range 41 to 62%. However, the wind speed is expected to be nine to 13 km per hour.

SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

Therapists and psychiatrists say they witness a five per cent increase in the number of people who suffer from depression this time of the year. Called the Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), it starts during the late fall and fades by early spring. The psychological reason behind this state is less sunlight, since sunlight is the best medicine for depression.

Studies state that 10 to 20 per cent of the recurrent depression cases follow seasonal pattern and December, January and February are the most depressive months since days are shorter, say psychiatrists.

Bonfires

[Continued from page 9]

As the temperature glides down on the thermometer, people tend to sit by the side of fire to warm themselves up. As it is it is the time of friendly get-togethers, family outings and picnics, bonfire is a common sight. Fire camps and barbecue parties are something that the winter festivity is attached to. Numb hands, sore feet and a fire is all it takes to give the required warmth.

Cooking outdoors, especially barbecued meat is something that has become a fashion amongst the modern generation - munching on smoking hot and spicy meat and a glass of wine to spice up the occasion. This is what festivity calls for - a time for yourself with your loved ones at an ambient environment where you tend to forget problems and responsibilities of your life as you venture into the world of escapism to find that lost smile on your lips.

2018 - Knocking the door

It's about time that we say goodbye to 2017 and celebrate the upcoming 2018 which will have an unexplored box of surprises and unpredictability. With malls and churches all decorated and illuminated, the city is shifting gears to welcome 2018 in a grand manner.

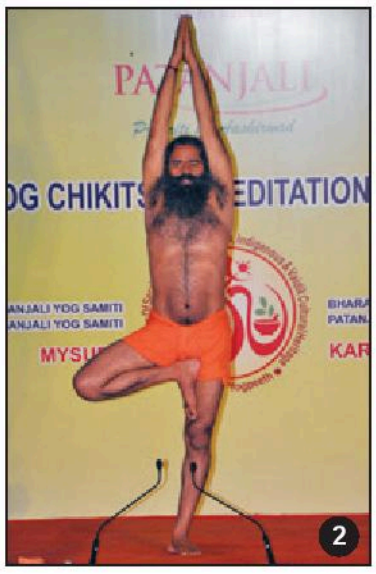
While New Year celebration have become an over-hyped thing of late, people leave no stone unturned to celebrate it in a grand fashion to culminate the passing year and step on to the next year. House parties, clubbing, neighbourhood get-togethers and a fest for the taste buds is on the cards - no wonder it is the time for festivity and a justified reason to party and enjoy hard.

Though winter came in late this year, it has reached its peak at the right moment. With temperatures plummeting to almost 18 degrees, Mysureans have found a reason to pull out their wardrobes and explore their collection of winter clothes which seemed to warm the cupboard since a long time.

While cold waves touch the skin and freeze the blood, people cherish this wonderful season and feel life when the cold breeze hits their face. With festivity to add some amount of warmth to this season, Mysuru will have the right balance of pleasant weather, and reason to celebrate this phase.

Baba Ramdev conducts yoga camp at Suttur

Over 2,000 delegates & school children participate in 3-day Shivir



1. Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji with Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev during the inauguration of the three-day Yoga Chikitsa and Meditation Shivir at Suttur Sri Kshetra in Nanjangud Taluk this morning. 2. Baba Ramdev in Vriksasana posture. 3. Suttur Residential School children performing asanas.

Suttur, Dec. 23 (MTY&NNN)- The early morning winter chill did not deter more than 2,000 people including women and children to gather at this picturesque free residential school in Suttur Sri Kshetra at Nanjangud to learn yoga asanas from the internationally renowned Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev.

Inaugurating the three-day Yoga Chikitsa and Meditation Shivir organised by the Patanjali Group of Institutions, this morning at 4.45, Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji said that Suttur Mutt is known for its spiritual, religious and educational focus and service.

"When Baba Ramdev was here during the Suttur Jathra early this year, he had promised to hold a special yoga camp for the school children of Suttur and also others who were willing to participate. He conducts the workshop every year in Haridwar and this is the first time that Baba is holding it in Suttur," he said.

Lauding the Yoga Guru for his achievements in promoting yoga internationally, the Swamiji said that he has blended the Indian culture and health seamlessly. "His Ayurveda medicines have become very popular all over the world," he said.

Baba Ramdev, who will turn 52 on Dec. 25 and runs a Rs.5,000 crore business empire, in his address in Hindi said that Suttur Mutt was known for its contribution in the education field and in dharmic traditions. "Suttur Kshetra has grown and is now known internationally," he said.

Dwelling on the health benefits of yoga, Baba said that yoga is practised all over the world as people have come to realise the benefits on their health. "If everyone practises yoga for an hour then the country will become a healthy society. It will help one turn spiritual and face the problems in a calm state of mind," he said.

Later, he began demo of yoga asanas and beginning with Surya Namaskar, he performed yogic jogging, Mandukasana, Vakrasana, Mayurasana, Padmasana, his most popular Nauli Kriya (abdominal massage), Kapali Bati and a few other asanas for nearly two hours.

Nearly 1,200 delegates from Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Goa will be participating in the three-day Shivir along with 4,000 students from the Suttur Residential School.

Today, the school children performed the acrobatic Mallakhamb which drew loud applause from the people gathered and Baba Ramdev was all praise for their skills and prowess.

There will be closed-door activities including meditation, spiritual and Swadeshi Jagran camps throughout the day. The delegates had turned up in whites and only Satvic food is served.

Tight security arrangements were in place and no one was allowed near the Yoga Guru as gun-toting security had cordoned off the area. Baba's devotees from Mysuru presented him a portrait of Mysore Palace.

Baba presented Patanjali products to a few kids and beads to the remaining children.

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Astrologically speaking...

JD(S) will be a 'King-Maker,' predicts noted astrologer

'Karnataka will get a new CM in 2018; Modi will be unquestionable leader till 2022'

Bengaluru, Dec.23- Vellore Shankaranarayana Dwarakanath Guruji, popularly known as Dwarakanath Guruji, who is deemed to be very close to Energy Minister, D.K. Shivakumar has predicted that JD(S) will be the 'King-Maker' in 2018 Assembly elections and the State will get a new Chief Minister.

Interestingly, JD(S) Supremo H.D. Deve Gowda has said that in the changing political scenario in Karnataka, his party will be a 'King' and not a 'King-Maker' and this time, people will vote for JD(S) as they have tried both Congress and the BJP.

In an interview to a private TV channel yesterday, Dwarakanath Guruji has predicted that the BJP will emerge as a single largest party with 90 seats. "It is difficult for the present CM Siddharamaiah to occupy the chair in 2018. Congress will benefit if Mallikarjuna Kharge is made the CM," he said.

Dwarakanath Guruji

"As of now, there are no indications to say D.K. Shivakumar will be the CM. But I am sure that he will become the CM one day. Nothing is impossible politically if Deve Gowda and his son H.D. Kumaraswamy make up their mind. If Kumaraswamy takes care of his health, there is no threat to JD(S) for at least 20 years," he said.

"Deve Gowda has the will power and has an aim and he will definitely achieve something. Prajwal Revanna has the potential of becoming a good leader in the future. It is difficult for former Mandya MP Ramya to get political positions and status in Karnataka and Congress will benefit if it uses actor Sudeep for campaigning," he predicted.

On the BJP's firebrand leader and Union Minister Ananth Kumar Hegde, Dwarakanath said, "If not now, he will become the CM one day. Shobha Karandlaje had a chance of becoming the CM sometime back but now it is difficult for her. Actor Upendra's party has no political future," he said.

Speaking about Lok Sabha elections, the noted astrologer said, "BJP will return to power in 2019 and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be an unquestionable leader till 2022. But Modi has a threat to his life and he has to take care of his security. Rahul Gandhi will only emerge as a political leader after 2022," he stated.

On Tamil Nadu, he said that after January 14, there will not be a government in Tamil Nadu and superstar Rajinikanth will be the CM.

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya

Jeep driver shot dead by miscreants in Kodagu

Somwarpet (Kodagu), Dec.23 (TP&DM)- In a gruesome incident, a 47-year-old jeep driver was shot dead in front of his house by unidentified miscreants at Iggodlu village in the taluk, early this morning. The victim has been identified as Kalachanda Ranjan Poovaiah, a native of Mukkodlu.

Ranjan who used to ferry visitors to Mandalapatti tourist spot in his jeep, had settled down along with his family at Iggodlu village near Madapura in the taluk a few years ago for the sake of his children's education. As usual, Ranjan came out of his house at about 5 am, when miscreants fired at him, killing him on the spot.

Business rivalry among local tourist jeep operators is suspected to be the cause of the murder.

Somwarpet Police are investigating.

Burglary gang busted; Eleven gang members arrested

Gold jewellery worth Rs.24 lakh recovered

Malavalli, Dec.23- The Malavalli Police have busted a burglary gang with the arrest of 11 persons including four women.

Addressing a press meet here on Friday, Mandya SP G. Radhika said that the Police have recovered 850 gm of gold jewellery worth Rs. 24 lakh, two Tata Sumo vehicles, four gas cutters, six cellphones and a pocket calendar used for the crimes, from them.

The arrested have been identified as 30-year-old Shivamma, wife of Somesh of Belawadi, 23-year-old Ashwini, wife of Pratap, 48-year-old Bhagya, wife of Nanjunda, 60-year-old Lakhmamma, wife of Krishnappa, 38-year-old Somesh, 46-year-old Venkatesh, 45-year-old Prakshachandra Jani, 50-year-old Nanjunda, 40-year-old Lokesh, 26-year-old K. Prasad and 42-year-old Venkatesh of Halli Bagadi village. Continuing, the SP said that following the arrest of the gang in 'Operation Sona,' the Police have solved over 20 chain snatching, burglary and theft cases reported in Mandya, Mysuru and Ramanagara districts.

The modus operandi of the gang was to target *Jatras* and carry out chain snatching, robberies, burglaries and theft in a pre-planned manner using gas cutter and other equipments, she said and added that the Police have launched a hunt for two more who are absconding.

The SP further said that the 'Operation Sona' headed by ASP Lavanya and Malavalli Dy.SP C. Mallik had worked for nearly a month to nab the gang, which was targeting people in *jatras*.

Bebi Betta illegal mining case

Forest Vigilance Squad begins probe

Mandya, Dec. 23 (DM)- There seems to be more trouble for Mandya MP C.S. Puttaraju as the Government has ordered a probe into the alleged illegal stone quarrying in Mandya district.

Based on a complaint lodged by RTI activist Kallahalli Ravindra alleging that rampant illegal stone quarrying was going on in Bebi Betta, Chinnakurali and Honaganahalli forest area, the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (APCCF) has directed the Forest Vigilance Squad to probe the matter.

In his order, the APCCF has asked the Department squad to complete the probe and submit a report within 15 days.

Meanwhile, Mandya JD(S) MP C.S. Puttaraju who is at the centre of controversy in the alleged illegal mining case, reacting to the Forest Department's probe, said that the move was a political one as the Congress Government had specifically targeted him.

Dismissing the allegations of illegal quarrying, Puttaraju said that the Government had targeted him after Chamundeshwari JD(S) MLA G.T. Devegowda.

He said that he was not afraid by such tactics of the Congress Government and added that he was prepared to face any probe.

Farmer electrocuted

Periyapatna, Dec.23- In a tragic incident, a farmer died on the spot after he stepped on a live power wire at his farm in Aiylapura village in the taluk here this morning.

Deceased Harish

The deceased farmer has been identified as Harish (23), of Aiylapura village.

Periyapatna Police, who rushed to the spot, conducted mahazar and shifted the body to Periyapatna General Hospital besides registering a case.

Chain snatched at Siddarthanagar

Mysuru, Dec.23 (SPN&KS)- Bike borne miscreants have snatched a gold chain from a woman who was talking with her friend at Siddarthanagar here yesterday afternoon.

The woman who lost her gold chain has been identified as Bhuvaneshwari, wife of a KSRP Constable.

Bhuvaneshwari was talking with her friend on Ahimsa Marga in Siddarthanagar, when a bike borne miscreant snatched her gold chain weighing about 25 grams and sped away.

Public express anger: Reacting to the incident, the public said that the incident took place when the cops are observing 'Crime Prevention Month.'

They also said that many suspicious persons have been moving around in bikes in the area and added that as there is no Police beat in the area, incidents like chain snatching are taking place in the locality.

Winter Fest begins this evening

Clay models of Palace musicians and courtesans displayed at Mysore Palace as part of Flower Show.

(Continued from page 1)

A vertical garden on the wall of the temple, model of a Palace, throne, 'Ane Gaadi carrying musicians decorated with colourful flowers are the major attractions. Fireworks will be displayed in front of the illuminated Palace on December 31 to welcome the New Year. In addition, attractions for children include flower replicas of the old Palace, king cobra, tortoise, star fish, octopus, Hanuman, Chota Bheem, Chota Krishna and Sukhoi aircraft.

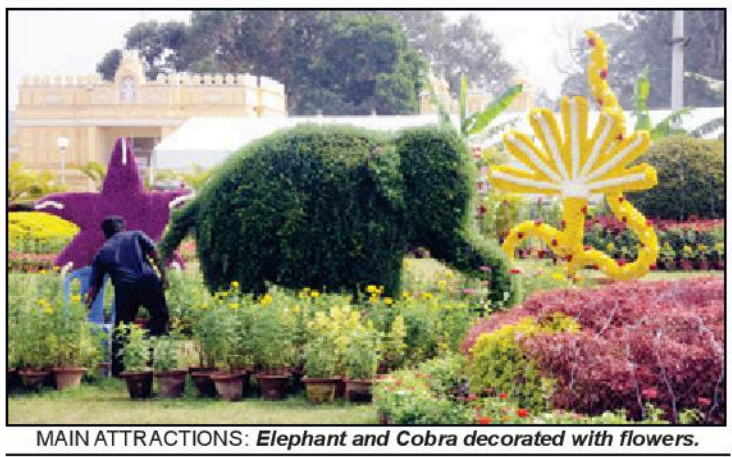
ORIGINS OF WINTER FESTIVAL: What began as a small cake festival has now taken the shape of Mysuru Winter Festival. The District Administration and Food and Civil Supplies Department had initiated a Cake Festival in 2013 and that graduated into "December to Remember" in 2014 and it was a grand success. The festival was not organised in 2015 as Karnataka was reeling under severe drought. In 2016, the festival was limited to Cake Festival and the Palace Flower Show.

Thanks to the aggressive social media campaigns initiated by the organisers for the Winter Festival, the Tourism Department and tour operators are likely to make it big with a promising year-end tourist season. The festival is a complete family get-together and the stakeholders in the tourism industry are keeping their hopes high on it, attracting year-end holidaymakers.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep said that the festival aims to retain tourists in Mysuru till New Year. "Usually, Mysuru gets a lot of tourists in December and after they visit the Palace and other attractions, they leave to places like Goa, Ooty and Kodagu. This year, through the Winter Festival, we are planning to retain tourists till the New Year," he said.

FOOD FESTIVAL: What will pull maximum crowd at the Winter Festival is the three-day Food Mela that will be organised at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry from Dec. 27.

A replica of a Temple Gopura.



MAIN ATTRACTIONS: ***Elephant and Cobra decorated with flowers.***

The festival will focus on tribal food and will have all the dishes that are usually prepared by the tribals during this season, said K. Rameshwarappa, Senior Deputy Director, Food and Civil Supplies Department.

"Edible roots from forests, vegetarian Bamboo Biriyani, dishes made out of avarekai, snake beans (alasande), jowar rotti, ragi rotti, tea made out of Makali roots, bamboo rice dishes, bamboo rice payasam and sweet dishes prepared out of forest produce will be available to tickle the taste buds," he added.

BJP SC Morcha condemns rape and murder of Vijayapura Dalit girl

Mysuru, Dec.23 (RK&DM)- More than 500 members of BJP SC Morcha staged a demonstration in front of the DC's office here this morning in protest against the rape and murder of a minor Dalit girl in Vijayapura recently. The protesters, who marched in a procession from Maharaja's College Grounds to the DC's office, raised slogans against the Congress Government for failing to prevent atrocities against women.

Addressing protesters near the DC's office, former Minister and senior BJP leader V. Sreenivasa Prasad lashed out at the Siddharamaiah Government for failing to nab the culprits.

Claiming that Law and Order had collapsed in the State, Prasad said that Home Minister Ramalinga Reddy had no control over the Department and crimes against women were increasing by the day.

Urging the Government to bring the culprits to book, Prasad demanded stringent punishment for all those involved in the brutal killing of the minor Dalit girl.

Special Swachhata Abhiyan begins tomorrow

Mysuru, Dec.23 (MTY&NNN)- All efforts are going on by the District Administration to put Mysuru back on the top cleanliness rank in the country.

Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep has strictly directed Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to maintain cleanliness in the city outskirts and the layouts adjoining the Ring Road. He has called for a special Swachhata Abhiyan drive from tomorrow (Dec.24).

A whopping 4014 cities are vying for the top rank in this year's Swachhata Abhiyan. To regain the 'Cleanest City' tag in this tough competition, the DC held a meeting yesterday with the officials of the MCC, MUDA, Zilla and Taluk Panchayats at Jaladarshini Guest House and asked all of them to help in preserving the city's cleanliness.

A highly qualified team of survey assessors from the Quality Council of India will arrive in the city on Jan.4, 2018, to conduct the survey. Hence, all efforts should be made to keep not only the city area clean but also the Gram Panchyat, Taluk Panchayat and Zilla Panchayat areas adjoining the city. Hence, all the officials from these departments should join hands, he said.

Trucks and lorries carrying goods to city must be allowed entry at check posts, only if they are covered with tarpal. The owners of vacant corner sites lying in a state of neglect should be served notice to get them cleaned. If they do not respond to the notice, they should be penalised, he directed.

MCC Commissioner G. Jagadeesha said that already necessary action has been taken in the light of Swachh Survekshan. In all 65 wards, five additional Pourakarmikas have been assigned. Along with this, the Pourakarmikas who clean the underground drainages have also been drafted for cleaning.

On Dec.24, a special Swachhata Abhiyan will be held. The Pourakarmikas participating in this Abhiyan will be served lunch, he said.

MUDA Commissioner Kantharaju said that there are more than 2,000 CA (civic amenities) and corner sites, which are lying vacant and they are filled with weeds and other growth. Notices will be issued to the owners to remove them. He assured that MUDA will join hands with MCC in Swachhata Abhiyan.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer P. Shivashankar said that already instructions had been given to Panchayat Development Officers to maintain cleanliness in the areas adjoining the city.

MUDA Superintending Engineer Suresh Babu, MCC Health Officer Dr. D.N. Nagaraju and others were present at the meeting.

MUDA to handover layouts

DC Randeep directed the MUDA to handover 65 layouts under its jurisdiction to the MCC. Before the model code of conduct for the upcoming election comes into force they should be handed over. The officials of both the MUDA and MCC should conduct a joint survey before the handover, he said.

Reacting to this, MUDA Commissioner Kantharaju said that in the first week of January, 2018 all the 65 layouts will be handed over to MCC.

Svasa designer expo by Impressionz begins

An expo of handloom sarees and hand-crafted blouses and accessories by Svasa from Chennai, organised by Impressionz at Hotel Southern Star Board Room, was inaugurated this morning. Organiser Krupa Sumanth** (left) **is seen with designers from SVASA Sumathi Venkatesan and Sudha Mani. The expo will be open between 11 am and 8 pm today and tomorrow.

NOW SHOWING

Movie	Theatre	Phone	Shows
KANNADA			
Anjani Putra	Saraswathi	2541451	4 Shows
	Woodlands	2422871	4 Shows
	Prabha	2423569	4 Shows
	Mahadeshwara	9900820093	4 Shows
	Lakshmi	2443584	3 Shows
Bharjari	Lakshmi	2443584	1 Show
Tora Tora	Gayathri	2443568	4 Shows
Blue Eyes	Olympia	2420737	4 Shows
Mufti	Shanthala	2427584	4 Shows
	Sangam	2520494	4 Shows
HINDI			
Tiger Zinda Hai	Sri Nagaraj	2520490	4 Shows
	Balaji Deluxe	2497199	4 Shows
	Rajkamal	2423554	4 Shows
Pyasi Awaz	Uma	2520009	4 Shows
TELUGU			
Hello	Lido	2420885	4 Shows
Jawaan	Sterling	2481170	4 Shows
TAMIL			
Velaikkaran	Thibbadevi	2452958	4 Shows
	Padma	2521923	4 Shows
-----	Skyline	2481170	4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — PH: 4240422, 4241800

Tiger Zinda Hai (H)	(S-1)	10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm 7.00 pm, 9.55 pm
Tora Tora (K)	(S-2)	10.30 am
Velaikkaran (Ta)	(S-2)	1.00 pm, 4.00 pm
MCA (Middle Class Abbayi) (Te)	(S-2)	7.10 pm, 9.55 pm
Mufti (K)	(S-3)	10.50 am
Aruvi (Ta)	(S-3)	1.45 pm
Vimaanam (Ma)	(S-3)	4.30 pm
Hello (Te)	(S-3)	7.15 pm
Masterpiece (Ma)	(S-3)	9.55 pm
Anjani Putra (K)	(S-4)	10.45 am, 1.30 pm 4.15 pm, 7.00 pm 9.45 pm

INOX LIVE THE MOVIE — PH: 2533444 / 2533456

Anjani Putra (K)	(S-1)	10.10 am, 1.05 pm, 4 pm 6.55 pm, 9.50 pm
	(S-2)	9.00 am
Tiger Zinda Hai (H)	(S-2)	11.55 am, 3.15 pm 6.35 pm, 9.55 pm
	(S-3)	9.10 pm
	(S-4)	9.30 am, 3.50 pm
MCA (Middle Class Abbayi) (Te)	(S-3)	12.40 pm, 6.15 pm
Sakka Podu Podu Raja (Ta)	(S-3)	9.50 am
Hello (Te)	(S-3)	3.35 pm
Mufti (K)	(S-4)	12.50 pm
Mayaanadhi (Ma)	(S-4)	7.10 pm
Velaikkaran (Ta)	(S-4)	9.55 pm

Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15 to the film announced here.

EVENTS TODAY (DEC.23)

Department of PU Education, NSS, SBRR Mahajana PU College, Jayalakshmipuram: Annual NSS Camp, DDPU-Mysuru V.R. Shyamala inaugurates, R. Vasudevamurthy presides, Pooja Bhagavat Memorial Mahajana PG Centre, Metagalli, **4.30 pm.**

Sphatika Vidhyalaya Montessori Academy: 'Christmas Carnival,' ADC T. Venkatesh, Tahsildar T. Ramesh Babu, Corporator SBM Manju and High School Teachers House Building Co-op. Society Vice-President Basavegowda chief guests, Sphatika Vidhyalaya Secretary S.K. Vaishali guest of honour, Academy premises, KRS Main Road, Gokulam, **4.30 pm to 7.30 pm.**

DAV Public School: Shishirotsava-2017, 15th Annual Day celebrations, Mayor M.J. Ravi Kumar presides, Varuna Assembly Constituency Housing Programmes Awareness Committee Chairman Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah chief guest, Pramathi Hillview Academy Secretary H.V. Rajeev guest of honour, NIE auditorium, **4.30 pm.**

Children's Literary Club, Mysuru: "Imagination on the Run: Children Enact Scenes from Select Stories" - Part 10, Co-ordinated by Club Director Dr. R. Purnima, Government Girls Hostel, Adi Pampa Road, V.V. Mohalla, **5 pm.**

Sri Ramakrishna Vidyashala, Mysuru: 65th College Day celebrations, ISRO Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar chief guest, Vidyashala premises, **5 pm.**

Rotary Mysore South East Charitable Trust - The Acme School: School Annual Day celebrations, University of Mysore Registrar D. Bharati and Corporator J.S. Jagadish chief guests, School premises, Niveditha Nagar, **5.30 pm to 9.30 pm.**

Sri Andal Mandiram Trust: Dhanurmasa puja, discourse on 'Thiruppavai' by Dr. G.V. Narasimhan, Mandiram premises, V.V. Puram, **5.30 pm to 7 pm.**

Hebbar Srivaishnava Upasabha, Sri Goda Govinda Seva Samiti and Sri Vaishnava Sabha: 'Tiruppavai Kaalakshepa' (Sri Godopanishath) programme, discourse by Vidu. Janaki Sheshadri, Sri Vaishnava Sabha, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, **5.30 pm to 7 pm.**

Sugama Sangeetha Academy Trust: N.R. Krishnamurthy Memorial Programme, Ganalahari - Sugama Sangeetha by M.R. Sriharsha and troupe, Sugama Sangeetha Academy President K.V. Murthy presides, Trust Founder H.R. Leelavathi and Vice-President T.R. Harish will be present, Mysore K. Vasudevacharya Bhavan, Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, JLB Road, **6 pm.**

Mysore Christian Caring Forum and Pentacostal Pastors Fellowship: Mysore Christmas Carnival-2017 as part of Christmas celebrations, District in-Charge Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah, MLA Vasu, MUDA Chairman D. Dhruvakumar, City Police Commissioner Dr. A. Subrahmanyeswara Rao, SP Ravi D. Channannavar, Mayor M. J. Ravikumar, Corporators SBM Manju and D. Nagabhushan, V.V. Puram Police Station Sub-Inspector P.A. Suraj, Devaraja Police Station Sub-Inspector L. Srinivas, Nrupathunga Bayalu Rangamantapa President Shyam and others chief guests, Nrupathunga Open Stage, V.V. Mohalla, **6 pm to 9 pm.**

Nadavidyalaya Academy of Music and Dance, Hebbal and Kunte Family: Bharatanatyam Rangapravesha of Sanjana Patel, a disciple of Vidu. Mitra Naveen, accompanied on vocal support by Vid. M.S.Naveen, mridanga by Vid.Vikram Bharadwaj, violin by Vid. C.N.Thyagarajan, morching by Vid. Dasappa, Srikrishna Seva Samithi Trust President Shridhar Raj Urs, Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works-Mysuru Managing Partner Dr. M. Jagannath Shenoy and Noopura Kalavidaru Artistic Director *Natyacharya* Prof. K. Ramamurthy Rao guests of honour, Jaganmohan Palace, **6 pm.**

Sri Vidyatheertha Institute of Culture and Jnanodaya Pre-University College: 6th annual day, Sri Bharathi Theertha Swamiji and Sri Vidhushekhara Bharathi graces the occasion, C.V. Gopinath, Retd. Addl. Secretary, Dept. of Telecommunication (GoI), chief guest, Dr. V. R. Gowrishankar, CEO, Sri Sharada Peetham, Sringeri, presides, College premises, Sahukar Chennaiah Road, **6 pm.**

Sri Vedavidya Prasarini Sabha: Sampuma Srimadramayana Discourse Series by Dr. K.S. Narayanacharya, Sarada Vilas College Centenary Hall, Krishnamurthypuram, **6.15 pm to 8.15 pm.**

KSGH Music and Performing Arts: 2017-18 batch Drama students to stage Mahendra Vikramavarma's play 'Bhagavadajjukeeya,' University, **6.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (DEC.24)

Tulu Shivalli Madhwa Brahmana Mahamandala: Gobbu-Gammat - Entertainment Day, Vijaya Vittala School premises, Saraswathipuram, **8 am to 6 pm.**

Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP): National Consumer Day, demonstration of Food Adulteration Detection, Test for water potability, Detection of adulterants in milk etc. and interaction with public on consumer rights, Deputy Commissioner D. Randeep inaugurates, Dufferin Clock Tower (Chikka Gadiyaara), **9 am to 4 pm.**

Taralabalu Education Centre: Prize Distribution - Private Secretary to Minister for Higher Education Dr. G.L. Praveen Kumar and Davanagere's Kariganuru Medical Officer Dr. Sapan S. Patil chief guests, Taralabalu Education Centre Advisory Committee President M.G. Sadanandaiah presides, **9.30 am;** Annual Day and Pratibha Puraskar presentation - IPS Officer Dr. D.C. Rajappa and Assistant Director and Unit Head - Directorate of Field Publicity Dr. T.C. Poornima chief guests, Sri Taralabalu Jagadguru Educational Institutions-Sirigere Gen. Secretary Dr. S. Siddhaiah will be present, Taralabalu PU College Principal S. Shivakumar presides, cultural prog., Kalamandira, **5 pm.**

Sri Prasanna Sitarama Mandira: 2016-17 Annual General Body Meeting, Mandira premises, Narayana Shastri Road, Devaraja Mohalla, **10 am.**

Aroma: Cake Festival, varieties of Pastries, Exotic fruit Pastries, Ginger Bread Cookies, Cinnamon Cookies and Christmas Candies, Loyal World Supermarket - V.V. Mohalla / Bannimantap / Infosys / T.K. Layout / Kuvempunagar; Loyal World Market - Mall of Mysore; Aroma lounge - Bogadi Road, adjacent to AIISH / Hebbal Industrial Area; Gayathri Bhavan Building, Dhanvantri Road, **10 am onwards.**

Spandana Samskrutika Parishat, Mysuru, Sir M.V. Science Centre, Nanjangud and Sri Satanur Devaraju Felicitation Committee, Mysuru: Science Writer Satanur Devaraju's 60th year celebrations, felicitation to Satanur Devaraju by former Minister M.S. Athmananda, Dy. Chairman of State Legislative Council Marithibbegowda inaugurates, writer and critic Dr. C.P. Krishna Kumar presides, releasing of felicitation volume 'Vijnana Pathika' by writer and columnist Dr. Doddarangegowda, folk scholar Dr. D. K. Rajendra delivers felicitation address, Sir M.V. Science Centre President Nanjangud Satyanarayana and Spandana Samskrutika Parishat President T. Satish Javaregowda will be present, Sri Rajendra Bhavan, JSS Hospital premises, **10.30 am.**

Nisarga and Karnataka Farmers Market Mysuru Associations: Interaction on 'Organic Farming and Millets,' thinker P. Mallesh presides, Former Legislative Assembly Speaker Krishna chief guest, Institution of Engineers-India (IEI), JLB Road, **10.30 am.**

Mysuru District Gamaka Kala Parishat: PuTiNa's 'Srihari Charite,' Ullasa-6 'Gokula Gamanam' Vaachana by Vidu. Shubha Raghavendra, Vyaakyaana by Prof. Padmini Hegde, #1315/2, Haripriya 3rd Stage, Krishnamurthypuram, **11 am.**

Impressionz: Svasa Sarees and Blouses from Chennai, hand-crafted embroidered blouses, kurtas, curated sarees, silver jewellery and potlis, Southern Star, **11 am to 8 pm.**

Gruha Shobhe: Living Style Expo, Maharaja's College Ground, **11 am to 9 pm.**

Children's Literary Club, Mysuru: "Imagination on the Run: Children Enact Scenes from Select Stories" - Part 11, Co-ordinated by Club Director Dr. R. Purnima, Government Girls Hostel, Adi Pampa Road, V.V. Mohalla, **5 pm.**

BVB School, Vijayanagar: 15th Annual Day celebrations (Theme: Naada Ninaada), Police Commissioner Dr. A. Subrahmanyeswara Rao chief guest, Deputy Director of Public Instruction Manjula, BVB Bengaluru Chairman N. Ramanuja and BVB Mysuru Vice-Chairman K.B. Ganapathy guests of honours, Open Air Theatre, Manasagangothri, **5.30 pm.**

Sri Andal Mandiram Trust: Discourse by Dr. G.V. Narasimhan, Mandiram premises, V.V. Puram, **5.30 pm to 7 pm.**

Hebbar Srivaishnava Upasabha, Sri Goda Govinda Seva Samiti and Sri Vaishnava Sabha: 'Tiruppavai Kaalakshepa' (Sri Godopanishath) programme, discourse by Vidu. Janaki Sheshadri, Sri Vaishnava Sabha, Kantharaj Urs Road, Saraswathipuram, **5.30 pm to 7 pm.**

Kanaka Yuva Vedike: 530th Kanaka Jayantotsava, Sri Shivanandapuri Swamiji and Sri Trinetra Mahanta Shivayogi Swamiji will grace, former Forest Minister C.H. Vijayashankar inaugurates, Rajya Raitha Morcha (BJP) Secretary Mallappa Gowda presides, Shivaji Main Road, N.R. Mohalla, **6 pm.**

Sri Ramakrishna Ashrama: Swami Jnanayoganandaji speaks on 'The Gospel of Sri Ramakrishna,' Ashrama premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**

Natana Rangashale: Staging of Anton Chekhov's play 'Seagull,' Rangashale premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm.**

Sri Krishna Mithra Mandali, Sri Krishna Trust: Jnana Yajna Sambharama, Discourse on 'Harivamsha' by Dr. Vyasanakere Prabhanjanacharya, Bengaluru, Sri Krishna Auditorium, **6.30 pm.**

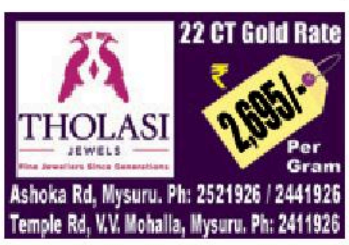
Mysuru winter festival
23rd DEC. 2017 - 1st JAN. 2018

Dec.23

Mysuru District Administration, Mysore Palace Board and Horticulture Department: Mysuru Winter Festival - 2017, Formal inauguration by District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, MLA M.K. Somashekar presides, Palace premises, Minister Tanveer Sait inaugurates Photography Expo, **5 pm;** Palace Illumination and Cultural Programmes - 'Sangeetha Sambhrama' featuring artistes Mysuru Mohan, Nanditha, Divya Raghavan, Anuradha Bhat, Ajay Warrier, Vyasaraj Sosale and Chinmay Aathre, Palace premises, **7 pm to 9 pm;** Musical Fountain at Kuppanna Park, **7 pm to 8.30 pm.**

Dec.24

Mysuru District Administration, Mysore Palace Board and Horticulture Department: Mysuru Winter Festival - 2017, Flower Show, **10 am to 9 pm;** Display of Dolls at Bombe Mane and Photography Expo, **10 am to 8.30 pm;** Children's Festival, **11 am to 6 pm;** Palace Illumination and Cultural Programmes - 'SaReGaMaPa Saurabha' featuring singer Sriharsha of Zee Kannada SaReGaMaPa fame and troupe, Mysore Palace premises, **7 pm to 9 pm;** Musical Fountain at Kuppanna Park, **7 pm to 8.30 pm.**



Secularism Divides, Sanatana Dharma Unites

Jawaharlal Nehru's alien philosophy of secularism didn't succeed: Tripura Governor Tathagata Roy

Kolkata, Dec.23- Tripura Governor Tathagata Roy on Friday said India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's push for an "alien philosophy" of secularism didn't succeed in the country and failed to secure amity between religions.

"He had tried to bring in an alien philosophy of secularism which didn't work, isn't working... which we have seen over the years has not given rise to amity between religions.

"It has given rise to, in fact, two Partitions, and eventually it has not succeeded," Roy said here at the 'World Confluence of Humanity, Power, and Spirituality' organised by SREI.

He was reacting to Congress veteran Mani Shankar Aiyar's assertion that it is important to rediscover Nehruvian India.

"At this moment in our history, it is becoming imperative that we rediscover Nehruvian India to battle other ideas of India which are challenging what was stated to be the national consensus through our freedom movement and through the first few decades of our Independence," Aiyar said at the event.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Mani Shankar Aiyar

Tathagata Roy

Roy said Nehru "didn't realise" India's plurality.

"Couple of days back in an editorial in a popular Bengali daily, a scribe was writing that somebody had asked Nehru as to 'what would be your principal task upon having become the Prime Minister of an independent country.' He thought for a moment (so wrote the scribe) and said, 'my job would be to take the country away from religion'."

"In other words, what he was trying to do is finding a way of driving a square peg in a round hole. He didn't succeed. He didn't realise the essential plurality of India."

Roy attributed the co-existence of multiple faiths to Sanatan Dharma.

"What has made this co-existence possible... it can only be called **Sanatan Dharma** which allows a catholicity of faiths to exist under its umbrella where you can accept God as a human being, as a male, as a female, as a child or as a non-being.

"It is this **umbrella nature** of Sanatan Dharma which has made it possible for so many different faiths and thoughts to exist in this country like nowhere else... **This Sanatan Dharma... which Nehru had missed.**"

Later, Roy also tweeted: "Crossed swords with Mani Shankar Aiyar. Said India`s plurality is essentially due to the umbrella-like nature of Sanatan Dharma and not to the version of secularism that Nehru tried to thrust down its throat."

Fodder scam case

Ranchi CBI Court to pronounce verdict at 3 pm

Ranchi, Dec. 23 - A Special CBI Court in Ranchi will pronounce its verdict at 3 pm today in a fodder scam case in which former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Yadav is an accused. The case relates to embezzling of more than Rs.85 lakh from the Deoghar Treasury between 1991 and 1994.

Lalu Yadav

The Rashtriya Janata Dal Chief has already been convicted in another fodder scam case that cost him his Lok Sabha seat and disqualified him from contesting elections.

Lalu Yadav, along with his younger son and political heir, Tejashwi, arrived in Ranchi last evening for the verdict. "We trust and respect the Judiciary. It won't let BJP's conspiracies work," he told reporters, hoping that his verdict would be on lines of the 2G case.

If he is convicted, he will be immediately taken into custody. In October 2013 when he was first convicted in a related fodder scam case, he had to spend two months in jail before he got bail from the Supreme Court.

In this case, Lalu Yadav faces accusations that as the Chief Minister and Finance Minister back in the nineties, he kept the file for an inquiry against the mastermind of the scam pending for 16 months and gave three other officials extensions despite objections from bureaucrats. The CBI says he was aware of the scam but allowed the loot to continue by his inaction.

Apart from Yadav, former Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra and 19 others are also accused in the case.

Of the 34 people initially accused in the case, 11 died during the course of trial, while one turned approver and admitted to the crime.

Special CBI Judge Shivapal Singh had completed hearing the case on December 13 and asked all accused in the case to remain present in Court for the judgment.

In October 2013, Yadav was convicted in one of the cases — on charges of embezzling Rs. 37 crore. That verdict had disqualified him from the Lok Sabha and contesting elections.

In 2014, the Jharkhand High Court had given relief to the former Bihar Chief Minister and others by dropping charges of criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and prevention of corruption. The Court had quashed the cases on the grounds that a person convicted in one case could not be tried in similar cases based on same witnesses and evidences.

In May this year, the Supreme Court ruled that Lalu Yadav will have to stand trial in all the fodder scam cases, setting aside the high Court order that dropped cases charges against the former Bihar CM.

The former Chief Minister of Bihar had been charged in several cases related to the scam, in which Rs.900 crore were embezzled from the State exchequer for fictitious medicines and fodder for cattle over a period of 20 years. The CBI started probing the case in 1996.

Over 50 cases were registered for embezzlement of funds on the pretext of buying fodder for cattle, among others.

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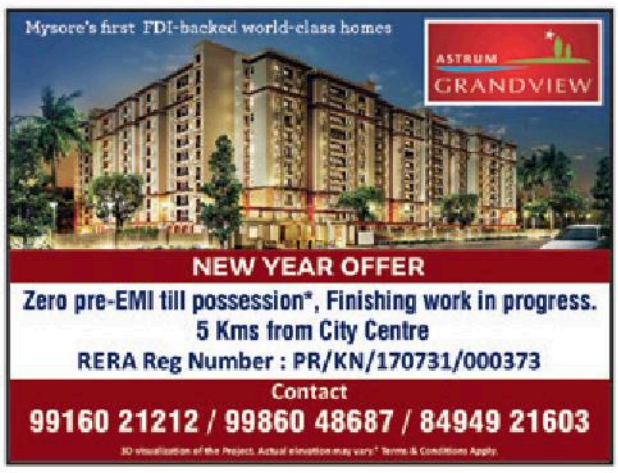
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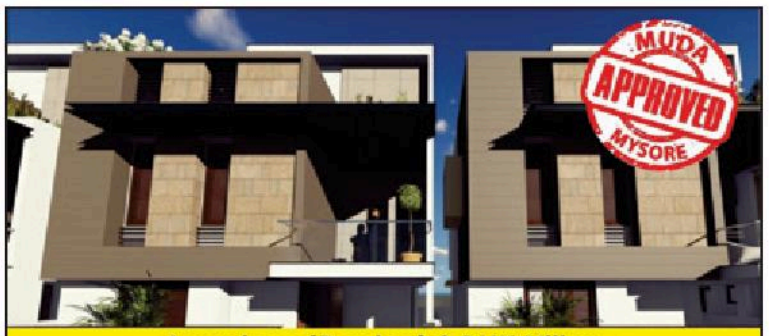

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